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The Staten Island Children's Museum has a new addition!

February 10, 2015--Great Explorations, the exhibit which takes children on an around-the-world journey – from the frozen tundra, to under the Brazilian rainforest canopy, to the depths of the sea – is home to a new exhibit all about Morse code.

The 1950's-era telegraphs on display are on loan to the museum from local businessman, Samir "Sam" Farag. Sam, owner of Staten Island-based Worldwide Electronics Corporation and founder of the Museum of Maritime Navigation and Communication (mmncny.org) is passionate about sharing his extensive collection of nautical navigation technology, and the region's maritime history, with children and their families. Sam is also a long-time board member of the Staten Island Children's Museum.

The new *Morse Code Station* at the Children's Museum teaches children how sailors and explorers communicated critical messages in a simple, foolproof way, in the days before digital communication. It also introduces some heroes who telegraphed messages to save passengers on sinking ships. Visitors will learn to read the code's dots and dashes, and then transmit their own messages, which will appear on a computer screen.

Rene Wasser, the Museum's exhibit manager, designed and fabricated the *Morse Code Station*. "Explorers used Morse Code. It's a great way to marry interactivity with Sam's historic collection." The *Morse Code Station* will be on display at the Children's Museum for the next several months.

"I created the [MMNC] for education purposes, so I was happy to team up with the Staten Island Children's Museum to have my first exhibit for kids there because the Children's Museum has always been committed to teaching and bettering our kids," said Sam Farag.

"The Museum is honored to be home to some of Sam's amazing collection of navigation and communication equipment. It is wonderful way for older adults such as grandparents to interact with children about communication systems in the past. Together they will learn about the how Morse code was used and its importance in the maritime history of not only Staten Island but all over the world," states Monica McCabe, president of the Children's Museum board of trustees.

New York City Councilmember Debi Rose generously supplied the funds for the creation of the *Morse Code Station*.

The Staten Island Children's Museum is housed in a building owned by the City of New York and its operation is made possible, in part, with public funds provided through the NYC Department of Cultural Affairs with support from the Staten Island delegation to the NYC Council and the Staten Island Borough President. Significant operating support is also provided by the NYS Council on the Arts, Corporations, Foundations, the Trustees and Members.